

III. REMARKS

In the office action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 13-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being patentable over Citta (US 5,534,938) in view of Fimoff (US 5,987,070) for reasons set forth in the office action. Claim 19 was allowed, and Claims 3, 6-8 and 10-12 were said to have allowable subject matter.

Claims 3, 6 and 10 are rewritten in independent form so as to secure allowance of claim 3, claim 6 and its dependent claims 7-8, and claim 10 and its dependent claims 11-12. Also, various ones of the claims have been amended to correct punctuation (insertion of a comma at the end of a paragraph).

With respect to the claims rejected on the 35 U.S.C. 103, it is urged that these claims are believed to contain allowable subject matter in view of the following argument. The cited art employed for rejection of the claims is directed to a situation wherein an "interface" in communication equipment is a long-distance transmission link between a transmitting device and a receiving device that can be thousands of miles apart. The present invention is directed to a circuit interface between a transmitting circuit and a receiving circuit that are very close to each other, both being inside a single portable electronic device. Generally, one does not look to long-range transmission systems for the building of a link between two electronic devices located side-by-side within a common electronic equipment. For example, one would find significant differences in these two situations between such design considerations as the power-, attenuation-, noise-, EMC-, ESD- and impedance considerations etc. Such considerations that apply to construction of the present invention in the intended environment for the practicing

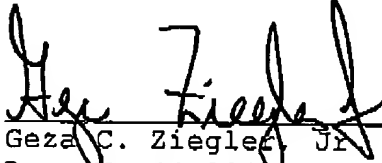
of the present invention are vastly different from long-distance transmission. Therefore, it is believed that the foregoing references, cited in the rejections of the present claims, should not be regarded as being relevant to the evaluation of patentability of the present claims.

In order to emphasize the foregoing distinction between the present invention and the situations dealt with by the cited art, claim 1, as amended, is directed to a digital transmitting device for transmitting a serial sequence of data bits and a number of associated synchronization signals over a wired connection to a digital receiving device. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended the state that the digital transmitting device and the digital receiving device are part of a portable terminal of a telecommunications system, and that the output line from the primary transmitter means leads to the digital receiving device. Corresponding amendments have been made also to the independent claims 9, 15, 16 and 20. Therefore, the amendments to these independent claims are believed to overcome the foregoing rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 so as to secure allowable subject matter in these claims, as well as in their respective dependent claims.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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3 September 2004
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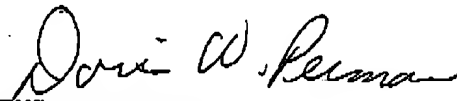
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